Chapter. 81

Burnt Field ③

!!

1-2 Gin...?!

WE WERE WRONG...

WHAT YANAGIHARA-SAN IS LOOKING AT IS PAST THAT...

.....

I GET IT.

HE'S NOT WITHDRAWING THE KAKU?

HUH?

WHAT ABOUT THE KAKU?

He's good...

This guy's the oldest active player?

You're kidding, right?

How the hell is he this damn good?

If he drops there, there's just

no way to defend!!

2-5 KOU!!

What do I do here?

SFX: PASHIIH

SFX: SU...

SFX: TANN

THERE IT IS!

A 2-5 KOU!!

2-5 KOU!!

WHAT'S ANIJYA GONNA DO?!

——What...?

AMEN...

SFX: KAHH

1-4 KAKU!!

Kishou Championship Game 5

NO, ACTUALLY

THAT MOVE...

BUT NOW...

HE DEFENDED WITH THE KAKU HE JUST CAPTURED?!

SFX: ZAWA ZAWA (CHATTER)

the only thing he had to defend the 2-3 point was this kaku exchange!!

really was good?

——No, actually

He dropped the kaku without hesitation...

However

it was a good decision.

He duly,

It's just like you said.

——THAT'S RIGHT, GOTOU.

YOU CAN JUST LEAVE SHIMADA ALONE. HE'LL START WINNING AGAIN ON HIS OWN.

soberly,

and came back one layer thicker.

unflaggingly built himself up.

—That's how he is.

He's a zelkova tree.

He can only grow larger at a slow rate, and in exchange

to grow into a huge, hard tree.

he endures wind and rain

I dunno.

——Yeah.

What do I resemble?

Then what am I?

There are no predecessors left to compare me to.

..My hips hurt.

And my eyes are going hazy.

Oh no, my mind is drifting off in the middle of a game...

Goddamit.

—Huh?

—Wait, no

I'm feeling much better than usual.

—That first game, now that was awful.

'Senile pneumonia' ...

You don't need to make that face -

you're still ahead.

Oh, uh-oh, he's glaring at me.

Now that's scary...

I thought I was gonna die.

That was pretty good, winning with that.

Phew...

You're...

losing, aren't I?

——That's right. I'm

SFX: BUNAH

——I've been thinking about it forever.

If I had shogi taken from me,

what do I have left.....?

Kishou Championship Game 5

WILL HE FINALLY GET HIS LONG SOUGHT-AFTER FIRST TITLE?!

WHO HAS NOW TAKEN THE ADVANTAGE.

HAS BEEN OVERTURNED BY SHIMADA KAI 8-DAN'S DEFENSE

FROM THAT 2-5 KOU, YANAGIHARA KISHOU'S ATTACK

IT FEELS AS THOUGH HE IS FIGHTING A TOUGH BATTLE AND IS UNABLE TO CONCENTRATE.

IS YANAGIHARA KISHOU SHOWING GREATER SIGNS OF STRAIN?

—WITH ALL THE PRESSURE SHIMADA 8-DAN HAS PUT ON HIM.

YANA-GIHARA KISHOU

WITH THE TITLE OF 'ETERNAL KISHOU', REQUIRING A TOTAL OF 10 WINS

JUST ONE STEP AWAY...

WILL HIS HAND... JUST NOT REACH?

SAKU-CHAN.

...IS THIS THE END?

HE...

HE JUST NEEDS ONE MORE WIN...

.....NO.

SAKU-CHAN DID WELL.

ACTUALLY

HE DID GREAT TO MAKE IT THIS FAR.

'—I'm retiring.'

'It's hard to accept, but I'm going to look for another path.'

'Saku-chan, I just... I can't do it anymore...'

'I felt this was the best time to do it.'

'Saku-chan, they've decided I'm going down in rank.'

'Saku-chan, I decided I'm going back to the country.'

—It's like

I'm standing in the middle of a burnt field...

IT'S SCARY

IT'S SCARY, SAKU-CHAN

—NO!!

I'm going to carry this to the end!!

this is one thing I'm not letting go of!!

I don't know, but

of these people that put everything they had into what they did

The final destination

Is not some

Goddamn Burnt Field!!-

HE'S RAISING HIS GYOKU?!

1-7 GYOKU?!

HUUUUUH?!!

1-6 GYOKU?!

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT! 1-6 GYOKU, HERE?!!

Climbing Gyoku?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

SFX: KAHH

H... HE-

HAD THAT MOVE?!

AAAH!! BUT!!

a burnt field

Given enough time

will grow grass again, whether you want it to or not.

SAKU-CHAN.

HANG IN THERE!

SAKU-CHAN.

SAKU-CHAN...

a field of green.

It will become

GRAMPS,

—YUP!!

I HAVE NO MOVE... TO PUNISH THAT WITH!!

THAT MOVE WAS WAY TOO YOUNG FOR YOU.

together !!

and we'll look at it

Chapter 84 END

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU 5

BREATHTAKING SUPER-HEATED BATTLES... WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?!

Shogi is a living thing. You never know what'll happen if you don't try. And very frequently, a game where both players start off full of fighting spirit can end quickly with one side overwhelming the other.

Of course, the opposite also happens. When both sides use every trick at their disposal to turn it into a a super-heated battle. Those moments when either side could gain victory if the other leaves an opening, those super-heated battles when they both keep their balance and the battle rages on long-term are one of the big thrills of shogi and can be emotionally moving even for other pros. And fans are well aware that there's nothing as entertaining as endgames going on endlessly with time countdowns being read.

However, and I hate to put a damper on things like this, but super-heated battles do not necessarily make for great matches. Sometimes both sides being balanced means both sides are making bad moves. And these cases are overwhelmingly more common. That's just how it is.

But even knowing this, super-heated battles really make some sort of impression, don't they? Even including the mistakes, it's in the raw clash of two human beings. It's because you can feel the souls of the players in each and every move.

The 5th and final mtch of the Kishou Championship in Lion, the match between Yanagihara Kishou and Shimada 8-dan, was truly one of those matches where you could really see two souls clashing right on top of the board.

Such a match was the finals of the JT Cup Japan Series of Satou Yasumitsu-san and Gouda Masataka-san. This match played in the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium was open to the public and, this may not be the right word for it, but it was a heated match akin to slinging mud at one another. So much so that I forgot the work I was doing and went to watch it.

The Japan Series is a series of speed matches, but if this match was a rank-deciding match with 6 hours of available time, it would probably have gone to 2 in the morning. Because this one game of shogi ended up being a full 16 hours in length.

While 2 AM is rare, matches that go past 1AM happen year round. And in shogi, there is the special situation where the game is declared a tie due to repetition. And this results in the dreaded restart from the first move. Consequently, these matches always go late. Previously, the longest game was between Nakagawa Daisuke-san and Namekata Hisashi-san where they tied twice and the game ended at 9AM the next morning. I've fought all the way to 6AM myself. After the game, my mind was alert and I wasn't able to get to sleep for nearly an entire day.

The record for the longest match in moves used to be 390, but it has now grown to an astounding 560. It's not only mental strength, but physical stamina one needs to play shogi.

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 8

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